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Corps announces bans to help prevent wild fire risk at Dworshak

Orofino, Idaho – Campfires, open flames and potential fire ignition sources have been banned effective immediately, according to an official for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at nearby Dworshak Dam and Reservoir. Conditions prompted other regional land managers to implemented similar restrictions on fires over the past weekend.

"We have posted signs and notices at all of our entrances, boat launching ramps and other accesses announcing our temporary restrictions for fire prevention. We are trying to prevent the risk of wild fires so our visitors can enjoy this beautiful piece of the taxpayers' property," said Heather Burke, a Dworshak park ranger. "This is especially important because fire conditions are dangerously high throughout the region and some fires are as close as 30 miles from some parts of our facilities. One of the best ways we can try to prevent potentially serious impacts here is to prevent uncontrolled or unplanned burning."

Visitors planning to take advantage of summer recreation opportunities at Dworshak, a part of the Corps' Walla Walla District, should constantly be aware of existing potentially dangerous fire conditions and temporary restrictions being applied to reduce the risk of wild fires. The facilities remain completely open to visitors normal use except for the fire restrictions.

"This is a great time of the year to use the reservoir. Fishing is still great and many campsites are available. We just hope folks understand the dangers of dry conditions and respect and follow a few important but necessary restrictions so we can try to avoid wildfires," said Billie Drewery, Corps forester at Dworshak.

Forest fuels have reached extremely dry conditions and the fire danger rating is in the "extreme" category, according to local fire officials from federal and state forestry agencies. National and regional fire suppression resources are stretched thin. These conditions prompt a few common sense things for visitors to remember.

"We want to remind our visitors that they should take extra precautions not only with campfires but also with other materials which can become fire ignition sources, such as smoking materials, vehicle exhaust systems, and even charcoal briquettes. As a preventative measure, visitors should carry a shovel and bucket to extinguish fires," said Burke.

For more information about recreation opportunities or fire conditions at this recreation oasis in northern Idaho, call the Dworshak natural resources staff at (208) 476-1279. **-30-**

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